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# HERALD

**BIG SPRING** TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019



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75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## CVB email newsletter provides information about Big Spring



**By ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

Big Spring has some great sights and sounds, local attractions and natural landmarks. And now, with the help of the Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau, both visitors and local residents can find out more about our town. The CVB has started up a "Visit Big Spring" email newsletter.

"The idea behind our newsletter is for visitors and for citizens to get to know more about Big Spring and more about the events that we sponsor and the events that we put on, and about anything that we have going on in Big Spring," said Big Spring Community Services

See **CVB**, Page 3

## Midland ranks 2nd in nation for income growth



**By ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

Big Spring's big neighbor to the west, Midland, has been recognized by New York-based SmartAsset, a financial technology company, for a couple of strong economic indicators.

"For many of us, improving our personal financial situation is an important focus as we set our goals for the New Year, said SmartAsset's Director of Public Relations Julia Wakefield. "One major way to contribute towards financial health is increasing one's income. But there are some areas of the country where workers are seeing more growth in their incomes. SmartAsset ranked the cities with the best income growth as part of our study of the places with the least inflation. Among those places, Midland ranked second for income growth, with the

See **GROWTH**, Page 3

*Courtesy photo*  
 Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau employees pose with a "Greetings From Big Spring" mural. The CVB has started up an informational email newsletter about Big Spring sights, sounds and activities. Shown are, from left to right, Community Services Director Hayley Herrera, Facilities Coordinator Terri Telchik, Administrative Assistant Joan Olvera, and Tourism Coordinator Manny Negron.



## Sweetwater Float Fest



The event is sponsored by local businesses and there is no admission fee to the public.

According to Holly Hutton, organizer of the event, she got the idea for this event from seeing other balloon festivals. "My dad is a hot air balloon pilot in Lubbock," she said. "They have a similar event there, and that's how I got the idea."

On Saturday there will be tethered flights.

Hutton also mentioned that the balloons are tied to the ground, so you won't have to worry about flying away. These flights will take place as weather permits, so to stay up-to-date, check out their facebook page for the latest information.

Another exciting event that will be taking place in conjunction with the balloon fest this year is the Ballon Exporium, a hot air balloon museum in Albuquerque, NM, will be coming to work with fifth grade students in Sweetwater, Highland

*Courtesy photo*

The photo above shows one of the many hot air balloons at a previous Float Fest event held in Sweetwater, Texas.

**By ANNA GUTIERREZ**  
 Staff Writer

The fourth annual Sweetwater Float Fest will be held January 12-13, 2019, at Newman Park, located at 100 Jack Hazard Drive in Sweetwater, Texas. The balloons will begin setting up and taking off at sunrise, a process that will last approximately one hour, weather permitting.

Find us online at:  
 www.bigspringherald.com



See **FLOAT**, Page 3



**By AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

Are you ready to dress to the nines for a night of music and fun, and indulge in a delicious five-course meal? Then you're in luck because it's time for the Hangar 25 Air Museum's Silver Wings Ball, held annually at the Hotel Settles. The event is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2019. This annual donation ball is held once a year in order to raise money for the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

"Since the museum is a non-profit organization, we use this ball as an opportunity to raise funds to support the museum for a whole year," said Amber Stokes, Museum Administrator. "This year will be the 21st annual Silver Wings Ball."

Stokes also stated that the Silver Wings Ball is

known to show the guests a really fantastic time, all while supporting a great cause.

"This year, you can expect more of the same as last year. A cash bar, live music, a five-course meal provided by the Hotel Settles, a live and silent auction, which in previous auctions has been known to include signed sports memorabilia and donations from local businesses such as Elrod's Furniture," said Stokes. "We always make sure we have really amazing items, and we just really want to incite people to come. It's going to be a really good time for the guests."

The Silver Wings Ball is the largest fundraiser for the Hangar 25, and the dress code is formal/Texas formal wear. To start off this exciting year for the Silver Wings Ball, cocktail

## Silver Wings Ball

*HERALD file photo*  
 Silver Wings Ball attendees sit down to enjoy dinner at 2016's event. Nearly 200 showed up in support of Big Spring's Hangar 25 Air Museum.

hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a sit-down dinner provided by the Hotel Settles at 7 p.m., and then the auctions to follow, all of which the proceeds will go back towards the continuation and preservation of the Hangar 25 Museum.

The Hangar 25 Air Museum is very much a Big Spring, Texas community icon, focused on displaying the proud heritage of a great city and educating fellow citizens of all ages on the military traditions that have been such an important part of local history. Since the opening it's doors in May of 1999, the Hangar 25 Air Museum has hosted more than 50,000 visitors from all 50 states and over 30 foreign countries.

"We want the community to come hang out and

See **BALL**, Page 3

**FOOD AND FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

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**ON TUESDAYS 4-9PM**

(Kids 10 & Under Eat Free With Each Purchase Of Adult Buffet At Regular Price On Tuesdays)

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**Pizza Inn**

## Take Note

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit [www.BecomeCASA.org](http://www.BecomeCASA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• Maranatha Baptist Academy, 903 Johnson Big Spring, Texas 432-213-1046, Call today for educational needs. In School, High School graduation, Tutoring, homeschool. We are qualified to help you with your child's education, kindergarten through twelfth grade. Come by or give us a call. Open enrollment.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more.

To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

• The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• The Howard County Democrats will meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 pm. at the Howard County Democratic Headquarters, 1408 Scurry, behind Prosperity Bank.

• The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Pro-

spective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs.

Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

• Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food.

It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

• Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Corner House Coffee Shop, 1701 Scurry St.

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

• Howard County Republicans meet the second Monday of each month. Club members meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m. for Dutch treat lunch and meeting at 12 p.m.

• The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the

symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program.

Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or [danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us)

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours.

For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• Victim Services is a nonprofit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you.

For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

## Support Groups

### TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's Disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 and 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 432-517-9207 for more information.

### THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

• Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. t 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email [francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org](mailto:francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org), or call 432-268-3003.

• GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Meetings are weekly, every Thursday, at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

### FRIDAY

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# HERALD

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## Rooms near 50th anniversary Woodstock venue are a hot ticket

BETHEL, N.Y. (AP) — Finding a place to stay for next year's 50th anniversary Woodstock concert may not be a groovy experience for anyone hoping to score a room near the venue.

The Times Herald-Record of Middletown reports that many motels, bed-and-breakfasts and Airbnb rentals are already sold out in Sullivan County, a rural area 85 miles (140 kilometers) northwest of New York City.

The Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, a concert venue built on the original Woodstock site in the town of Bethel, announced last week that it will host the golden anniversary event Aug. 16-18.

Most motels and B&Bs closest to the concert venue have been booked solid for some time. People interested in attending the anniversary concert are being advised to check out the Sullivan County Visitors Association website for lodging information.

## Dr. Rudy Haddad

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- Office Treatment of Enlarged Prostate Profile (instead of Surgery)

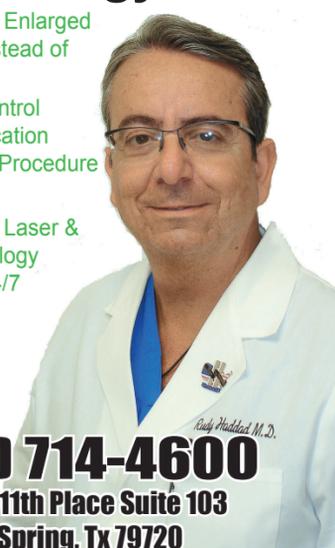
- Urinary Bladder Control Problem with Medication (Simple Outpatient Procedure Available)

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**MEMBER 2018**  
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# Texas Lottery reaches \$100 million in one week for scratch ticket sales

Special to the Herald

(AUSTIN) – Demonstrating its continued strong growth, the Texas Lottery has, for the first time in its history, sold more than \$100 million in scratch ticket sales in just one week. From Dec. 23, 2018 to Dec. 29, 2018, scratch ticket sales totaled \$100,776,586, shattering the old record of \$99,679,358 achieved in March of 2018.

"This is a very special time for the Texas Lottery as we continue to experience unprecedented growth and we are especially thrilled to celebrate this tremendous record week of scratch ticket sales," said Gary Grief, executive director of the Texas Lottery. "Revenue generated from these games supports public education and veterans in Texas," said Grief. The Texas Lottery has already generated \$1.5 billion in scratch ticket sales thus far in FY 2019 and is on pace to shatter its previous annual scratch ticket sales record of \$4.42 billion for FY 2018.

"Our scratch ticket sales have reached unprecedented levels during the current fiscal year, a testament to our strategic game planning and the extraordinary teamwork among our staff, vendors and retailers. As we continue to introduce fun and innovative scratch ticket games to our players, and our draw games continue to perform, we're on pace for another record-breaking year for total sales and revenue to the state." Grief said.

About the Texas Lottery

Beginning with the first ticket sold in 1992, the Texas Lottery has generated \$28 billion in revenue for the state and distributed \$58 billion in prizes to lottery players. Since 1997, the Texas Lottery has contributed \$22 billion to the Foundation School Fund, which supports public education in Texas. As authorized by the Texas Legislature, certain Texas Lottery revenues benefit state programs including the Fund for Veterans' Assistance. Since the first veterans' themed scratch ticket game was launched in 2009, the Texas Lottery has contributed more than \$103 million for programs supporting Texas veterans.

The Texas Lottery provides several entertaining games for lottery players including Powerball®, Mega Millions®, Lotto Texas®, All or Nothing™, Texas Two Step®, Pick 3™, Daily 4™, Cash Five® and scratch ticket games. For more information visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or at [www.txlottery.org](http://www.txlottery.org). PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

# US stocks edge higher on hopes of US-China trade resolution

By ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

Stocks were moving higher on Wall Street Monday as investors held out new hope for progress in U.S.-China trade frictions. Health care companies, retailers and technology stocks drove the gains as the market overcame a mid-morning wobble. Even so, the benchmark S&P 500 index was on track to end a volatile year with its worst showing in a decade.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 index rose 15 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,501 as of 12:45 p.m. Eastern Time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 211 points, or 0.9 percent, to 23,273. The Nasdaq added 44 points, or 0.7 percent, to 6,629. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks was down less than 1 point, or 0.1 percent, 1,336.

Trading has been highly volatile in December, capping a year of turbulence for markets. The major indexes closed last week with their first weekly gain in what's been an otherwise painful month. The indexes are still all down around 10 percent for the month and on track for their worst December since 1931.

**THE QUOTE:** "Last week we really had such a volatile week, and a lot of that had to do with thin trading volumes, some computerized trading and investors just being exhausted from a very difficult fourth quarter," said Jeff Kravetz, regional investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "Today is the last day of the year and investors are starting to look into next year."

**US-CHINA TRADE:** Investors drew encouragement from a tweet from President Donald Trump on Sunday, in which the president said he had a "long and very good call" with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump added: "Deal is moving along very well. If made, it will be very comprehensive, covering all subjects, areas and points of dispute. Big progress being made." Meanwhile, the official Xinhua News Agency cited a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that "China stands ready

to work with the United States to move forward the China-U.S. ties which are underpinned by coordination, cooperation and stability."

Stocks also got a boost in early December when the U.S. and China agreed to a truce on trade, but then plunged when it was unclear what exactly both sides had agreed upon.

**LOUSY YEAR:** The S&P 500 index, the market's main benchmark, is on track for a loss of 6.5 percent this year, or 5.2 percent once dividends are included. The last time the index fell for the year on that basis was in 2008 during the financial crisis, when it lost 37 percent. The S&P 500 posted tiny losses in 2011 and 2015, but eked out small gains in both years once dividends were included.

**THAT HEALTHY FEELING:** Health care stocks were among the biggest gainers. Regeneron Pharmaceuticals rose 2.5 percent to \$371.51.

**TECH RALLY:** Big-name technology companies, a big driver of the market's gains before things deteriorated in October, also rose. Advanced Micro Devices picked up 2.2 percent to \$18.21.

# GROWTH

Continued from Page 1

average worker receiving 5.31 percent more in income during the past 10 years."

According to SmartAsset's figures, Midland's 5.31 percent placed it second in the nation for income growth over the past decade (national average income growth is 2.11 percent) and first in Texas (state average income growth is 2.51 percent).

In addition, Midland ranked 10th in the nation and first in Texas among cities that have experienced the least inflation over the past decade. According to the rankings, the average Midlander's purchasing power has increased 26.10 percent during the past decade, compared to a national average increase of 6.43 percent and a statewide average increase of 2.64.

According to its website, SmartAsset researched the cost of goods in locations around the country and used average per capita income to calculate purchasing power.

"We determined the cost of living for each location by looking at the price for a basket of goods. The goods included basics like milk, shampoo and rent," according to the website. "We did this for both 2007 and 2017. We also calculated the average per capita personal income for each city for both years.

"To figure out how far money would go in each city, we calculated purchasing power. We divided the average per capita income by the cost of living in each city for both 2007 and 2017. The change in purchasing power from 2007 to 2017 then shows us the metro areas in the country that have seen the least inflation over the past decade."

For more information, visit <https://smartasset.com/investing/inflation-calculator>. The rankings are located toward the bottom of the page.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).

# BALL

Continued from Page 1

bring awareness to preserving the history of the Museum," said Stokes. "The

Hangar is a big part of Big Spring's history and an important part of the community."

To purchase your tickets early, or for additional information regarding this event,

please contact the Hangar 25 Air Museum at 432-264-1999.

Contact Staff Writer Amber Mansfield at 432-263-7331 ext 234, or by email at [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com).

# CVB

Continued from Page 1

Director Hayley Herrera. "So about the spring, about the Visitors Center, about what's going on, about what we at the Convention and Visitors Bureau do on a daily basis."

The newsletter, which will be released monthly, will include various articles about things going on in Big Spring.

"Each month we pick four or five different things to cover," Her-

rera said. "So this month we kind of covered coming to the Visitors Center to get information about what to do during Spring Break; we have information about all different types of Texas cities and towns. You can come to the Visitors Center to get information about that. We also covered how many people we had come through the Festival of Lights, and we thank everybody who volunteered for that. We also always cover exactly what the Visitors Center

does. We always put our mission statement on there. We make sure you can follow us on both of our social media, Facebook and Instagram. We covered the Hangar 25, that their Silver Wings Ball is coming up. So each month we'll pick different items to cover."

Herrera explained how to get on the email mailing list for the newsletter.

"They can contact (Big Spring Tourism Coordinator) Manny Negron," she said. "His phone number is 432-263-8235,

or they can email him at [mnegron@mybigspring.com](mailto:mnegron@mybigspring.com). He can enter that information for you. If anyone's interested in the newsletter, they don't have to wait until February to get on that list. He can actually enter you in and we can send it to you the next day."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).

Contact Staff Writer Anna Gutierrez at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com).

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## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Deborah Allen, 60, died Monday. Memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.



*Happy New Year!*

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*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

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## Dallas Morning News picks Laura Bush as 'Texan of the Year'

DALLAS (AP) — The editorial board of The Dallas Morning News has picked former first lady Laura Bush as the newspaper's "Texan of the Year" in part for speaking out against child separation at the border.

The newspaper on Sunday said Bush wrote "one of the most consequential op-eds of the year" when she published a Father's Day column calling the Trump's administration's zero-tolerance immigration policy "cruel" and "immoral."

The policy led to nearly 3,000 children being separated from their families.

Bush told the editorial board she saw it as a time when her voice could make a difference. The board said Bush told them she had also considered calling the Homeland Security secretary.

The newspaper had earlier named the U.S. Border Patrol agent as one of the finalists for the recognition.

## Gunman fires on car in Houston area, killing 7-year-old girl

HOUSTON (AP) — A man in a pickup truck pulled up next to a car that was leaving a Houston-area Walmart parking lot and started shooting, killing a 7-year-old girl inside the car and wounding the girl's mother, authorities said Sunday.

Three other girls were in the car, but it wasn't immediately clear if they also are related to the woman, who authorities say was shot in the arm.

Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said in posts on Twitter and Facebook that the girl who died was 7-year-old Jazmine Barnes. He said her mother, 30-year-old LaPorsha Washington, was wounded but survived her injury.

It wasn't immediately clear what prompted the Sunday morning shooting. An arrest hadn't been made as of Sunday night.

The red pickup fled the scene after the shooting. The car also sped away before it came to a stop and the woman called 911, authorities said.

Sheriff's Maj. Jesse Razo said the other girls who were inside the car when the shooting happened were "shaken" and "devastated."

"We're going to use all resources available to bring this killer to justice," Razo told reporters at the scene. "And I urge you, whoever did this, you know who you are, please turn yourself in now because we will be looking for you, we will locate you, we will find you."

## Texas police arrest armed man seeking to fulfill 'prophecy'

SEGUIN, Texas (AP) — Police in suburban San Antonio say they took into custody an armed man wearing police tactical-style clothing who said he was on his way to a church to fulfill "a prophecy."

Seguin (sih-GEEN') police say a passer-by who saw the man carry-

ing a handgun Sunday morning notified authorities.

An off-duty Seguin officer responded to the call and found the 33-year-old man carrying the loaded handgun, extra ammunition and a face shield.

Police said in a statement that Tony Albert

## 2 children found chained, abused find new life in Texas home

By ELIZABETH ZAVALA  
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — When LaKenya Shaw began to sing at a Northeast Side church one day in 2016, Theresa Nealy knew.

The voice in her head told her that Shaw, a stranger, was destined to be the mother of two young siblings rescued from horrific abusive conditions and desperately in need of a home.

Both women say it was divine intervention.

As Shaw stood to lead a song, Nealy said she found herself "so caught up" in the moment and knew the siblings rescued after Bexar County sheriff's deputies found them bound by their ankles and wrists with leashes and chains in the backyard of a Northeast Bexar County residence had found their home.

"In my mind I heard God say, 'Those are the parents I have chosen for those children,'" said Nealy, 49, whom with her husband, Danny, had fostered Josiah, then 4, and his sister Naomi, then 3, after the children were treated for their injuries when they were found by authorities.

From that moment, the process unfolded neatly, Nealy told the San Antonio Express-News.

Today, siblings Josiah and Naomi Shaw are 7 and 5, respectively, living happily in their new home with new last names and making memories that are far away from the wee hours of that cold, rainy spring day, when the heinous conditions they endured made national headlines.

"I think about how it could have been for them," Shaw said. "They could have died in that yard."

For Allen and LaKenya Shaw, Nealy's call was an answered prayer. Married for 17 years, the couple had long wanted children and had recently suffered a miscarriage.

"We had been praying and de-

## Health care, schools top finance-heavy agenda in states



In this Sept. 28, 2018 file photo, Texas Governor Greg Abbott smiles before a gubernatorial debate against his Democratic challenger Lupe Valdez at the LBJ Library in Austin, Texas.

By DAVID A. LIEB

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Big-dollar decisions about health care and education will top the agenda in many state capitols as lawmakers convene for their 2019 sessions with a closer balance between Republicans and Democrats.

Some states will be considering anew whether to expand government-funded health coverage to more people after Democrats put a sizable dent in Republican statehouse dominance during the November elections. Others will be wrestling with how to boost salaries for teachers and funding for their public schools.

State officials also will have to address several weighty issues that arose over the past year — how to recover from disastrous wildfires and floods, whether to legalize sports gambling and recreational marijuana for adults, and whether to make changes to their tax codes in response to recent federal laws and court rulings.

Many of the issues have a common

denominator: money.

"The number one issue is always taxes or revenues and expenditures," said Bill Pound, the longtime executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures. "Given the nature of the economy, given the impact as it's playing out of federal tax reform, that will take a good deal of attention."

The tax overhaul signed one year ago by President Donald Trump will have a trickle-down effect on state income tax returns being filed this year, resulting in a windfall for some states. Lawmakers will have to decide what to do with the money and whether to make changes to their own income tax codes.

Sales tax changes also could be on the agenda in as many as 16 states that haven't yet implemented them after a U.S. Supreme Court decision last summer. That ruling allows states to require online out-of-state retailers to collect taxes on sales made to their residents, a potential source of

See STATES, Page 5

## Woman killed by falling tree at Great Smoky Mountains park

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP) — A woman from Texas has been killed by a tree knocked down by high winds in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee.

Park spokesman Mike Litterst said Saturday that 42-year-old Laila Jiwani was hiking with her husband and three children on Porter Creek Trail on Thursday when the tree fell.

Litterst said one of her children was injured.

The spokesman says the 6-year-old was airlifted to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

In a Facebook post, Jiwani's husband Taufiq wrote that their son suffered a broken leg and superficial head injuries during a "simple/safe"

hike.

Jiwani says doctors told him his wife took most of the impact and saved her son. He wrote that part of the tree "fell from the sky."

Funeral services are scheduled Wednesday in Dallas.

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STATES

Continued from Page 4

millions of additional dollars.

When the 2019 legislative sessions begin, Republicans will control 61 of the 99 state legislative chambers (down from 66 before the November election) and will control both chambers in 30 states. Democrats will have full control of 18 state legislatures. Minnesota will have the only legislature with split partisan control. Nebraska has a single chamber, which is officially nonpartisan.

Democratic gains mean there will be closer margins between Republicans and Democrats in most legislative chambers. Democrats also picked up about a half-dozen governor's offices in the November elections. Republicans will have 27 governors while Democrats will have 23.

The Democratic surge has helped breathe new life into efforts to expand Medicaid coverage to low-income adults under the terms of the federal health care law signed by President Barack Obama in 2010. But a federal judge's ruling in December that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional could bolster resistance among some state lawmakers while the case is appealed.

New Democratic governors in Kansas and Wisconsin will be joining incumbent Democratic chief executives in North Carolina and Montana in pushing for expanded Medicaid programs. But they still must contend with Republican-led Legislatures.

North Carolina has a 2013 law preventing the governor from expanding Medicaid without approval from the General Assembly.

Before Wisconsin Gov.-elect Tony Evers could take office, Republican lawmakers passed measures preventing him from withdrawing Wisconsin from the multistate lawsuit challenging the Affordable Care Act or from withdrawing a work requirement for Medicaid recipients.

Kansas Gov.-elect Laura Kelly told The Associated Press that expanding Medicaid is "a moral obligation that we have as a state." Her election seemed to boost the chances of that happening, since a bipartisan coalition had passed a bill in 2017 that was vetoed by then-Republican Gov. Sam Brownback.

But conservative Republicans gained seats in the Kansas House at moderates' expense, and GOP leaders could bottle up Medicaid expansion bills in legislative committees.

In Montana, the question is whether to continue a 2015 Medicaid expansion that provided health coverage to 95,000 adults but is scheduled to expire mid-year. Gov. Steve Bullock's budget proposal would reauthorize Medicaid expansion and raise an additional \$50 million annu-

ally through tax increases on such things as tobacco, liquor, hotel rooms and rental cars.

Republicans who control the Legislature have suggested the Medicaid expansion should be means-tested, include a work requirement and possibly drug testing.

If the governor's budget "comes down to 'we need to have those taxes to pay for Medicaid expansion,' then the answer is 'it's not gonna happen,'" said Montana Senate Majority Leader Fred Thomas, a Republican.

Public schools could be a top issue in at least a third of the states, including Arizona and Oklahoma — two places where teachers went on strike over funding for schools. Arizona lawmakers, who gave teachers a 9 percent raise last year, are on the hook for a pledge of an additional 10 percent raise over the next two years.

In Oklahoma, Republican Gov.-elect Kevin Stitt and lawmakers from both parties all have said additional school funding is a priority this year, even after teachers got an average annual pay hike of \$6,100 this past year.

"We have a bunch of members who were elected on two major things: on being supportive of education and reforming state government, so those are the things I think you'll be seeing," said Oklahoma House Floor Leader Jon Echols, a Republican.

Elsewhere, Democratic Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards is pushing the first statewide pay raise in a decade for teachers and other school personnel. Governors and lawmakers in Colorado, Kansas and New Mexico are among others considering a funding boost for schools. In Oregon, Democratic Senate President Peter Courtney said a value-added or a gross receipts tax are two possibilities to raise revenue for education.

Oregon lawmakers also could consider a tax on carbon emissions as part of an environmental agenda.

Washington voters in November rejected an initiative to impose the nation's first tax on carbon emissions. Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee is making a retooled bid at addressing climate change with a proposal that would require utilities to produce carbon-free electricity by 2045, forcing the elimination of power plants fueled by coal and natural gas. He also wants to reduce carbon emissions in fuel used for transportation.

"The people decided not to embrace plan A," Inslee said recently. But "this plan B is ready to go, and it can pass this year" in a Legislature that has expanded Democratic majorities.

Illinois Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker and fellow Democrats in charge of the Legislature are considering legalizing and taxing recreational marijuana to bring in as

much as \$1 billion annually to the state. Pritzker has promised marijuana tax revenue to both the operating budget and capital programs.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, also is pushing lawmakers to act quickly to legalize recreational marijuana for adults, a move he had opposed just a year ago. Cuomo hasn't said how much the state stands to gain in tax revenue.

Some states also are looking to raise more money by legalizing and taxing sports betting. That comes after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way last year for the widespread expansion of sports gambling in states.

In some states, the 2019 legislative session marks the first opportunity to address the aftermath of deadly disasters.

Nevada's Democratic-controlled state government is expected to pass a ban on bump stocks on guns and tackle other firearm legislation as the Legislature meets for the first time since the October 2017 mass shooting on the Las Vegas Strip. The Trump administration earlier this month banned bump stocks, a regulation that will take effect in the new year but is likely to face a legal challenge from gun rights groups.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and the Republican-controlled Legislature will be wrestling with whether to tap as much as \$5 billion from the state's rainy-day fund to pay for the recovery from Hurricane Harvey, which swamped the southeast portion of the state in August 2017.

In California, state and federal authorities have estimated it will cost at least \$3 billion to clear debris from 19,000 homes and businesses destroyed by three California wildfires last fall.

Fresh off its deadliest wildfire in history, the California Legislature also will have to decide how much responsibility utilities should bear and how to prevent future fires from becoming so deadly as the state grapples with the effects of climate change. One option could entail limitations on new construction.

Where do the investigations related to Trump stand?

By The Associated Press

Where the investigations related to President Donald Trump stand and what may lie ahead for him:

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

Trump is facing criminal investigations in Washington and New York.

Special counsel Robert Mueller is looking into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia and whether the president obstructed the investigation. Trump also plays a central role in a separate case in New York, where prosecutors have implicated him in a crime. They say Trump directed his personal lawyer Michael Cohen to make illegal hush money payments to two women as a way to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign.



WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TODAY?

House Republicans brought an unceremonious end to their yearlong look at the Justice Department's handling of the investigations into Trump's ties to Russia and Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails.

In a letter released before Republicans cede the House majority to Democrats, the chairmen of

two committees described what they said was the "seemingly disparate treatment" the two probes received during the 2016 presidential election and called on the Justice Department to appoint a special counsel to investigate further.

The wrapping up of the congressional investigation, done in a letter and without a full final report,

See TRUMP, Page 6

Judge clears the way for appeal of ruling against health law

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge in Texas who recently declared the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional has stayed his ruling to allow for appeals.

That means "Obamacare" remains in effect while litigation continues.

In a ruling issued Sunday, Judge Reed O'Connor in Fort Worth wrote that he stands by his earlier conclusion

that the entire law is invalidated by congressional repeal of its fines on people who remain uninsured, like a house of cards collapsing.

However, because "many everyday Americans

would ... face great uncertainty" if that ruling were immediately put into effect, O'Connor issued a stay to allow for appeals.

A group of Republican-led states brought the lawsuit. A coalition of Democratic state attorneys general, led by California's Xavier Becerra, intends to appeal. Congressional Democrats also plan to appeal.

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# Prices rise as the minimum wage increases in several states

By DAVID A. LIEB

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — At Granny Shaffer's restaurant in Joplin, Missouri, owner Mike Wiggins is reprinting the menus to reflect the 5, 10 or 20 cents added to each item.

A two-egg breakfast will cost an extra dime, at \$7.39. The price of a three-piece fried chicken dinner will go up 20 cents, to \$8.78. The reason: Missouri's minimum wage is rising.

Wiggins said the price hikes are necessary to help offset an estimated \$10,000 to \$12,000 in additional annual pay to his staff as a result of a new minimum wage law taking effect Tuesday.

"For us it's very simple. There's no big pot of money out there to get the money out of" for the required pay raises, Wiggins said.

New minimum wage requirements will take effect in 20 states and nearly two dozen cities around the start of the new year, affecting millions of workers. The state wage hikes range from an extra nickel per hour in Alaska to a \$1-an-hour bump in Maine, Massachusetts and for California employers with more than 25 workers.

Seattle's largest employers will have to pay workers at least \$16 an hour starting Tuesday. In New York City, many businesses will have to pay at least \$15 an hour as of Monday. That's more than twice the federal minimum of \$7.25 an hour.

A variety of other new state laws also take effect Tuesday. Those include revisions to sexual harassment policies stemming from the #MeToo movement, restrictions on gun sales following deadly mass shootings and revamped criminal penalties as of

## State of minimum wage laws

- Twenty states have minimum wage increases taking effect around the start of the new year.
- 29 states and the District of Columbia have set minimum wages above the federal level since 2009.



SOURCE: Department of Labor

AP

officials readjust the balance between punishment and rehabilitation.

The state and local wage laws come amid a multi-year push by unions and liberal advocacy groups to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour nationwide. Few are there yet, but many states have ratcheted up wages through phased-in laws and adjustments for inflation.

In Arkansas and Missouri, voters this fall approved ballot initiatives raising the minimum wage after state legislators did not. In Missouri, the minimum wage will rise from \$7.85 to \$8.60 an hour on Tuesday as the first of five annual increases that will take it to \$12 an hour by 2023.

At Granny Shaffer's in Joplin, waitress Shawna Green will see her base pay go up. But she has mixed emotions about it.

"We'll have regulars, and they will notice, and they will bring it to our attention, like it's our fault and our doings" that menu prices are increasing, she said. "They'll back off on something, and it's usually their tips, or they don't come as often."

Economic studies on minimum wage increases have shown that some workers do benefit, while others might see their work hours reduced. Businesses may place a higher value

See WAGE, Page 7

# Kids who assault on US bases can still escape accountability



AP photo

This March 27, 2008, file photo, shows the Pentagon in Washington. New rules addressing sexual assault among the children of U.S. service members fail to fix a flaw that on many military bases has let alleged juvenile abusers escape accountability.

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD and REESE DUNKLIN

Associated Press

Despite new rules addressing sexual assault among the children of U.S. service members, the federal government failed to fix a flaw that on many military bases has let alleged juvenile abusers escape accountability or treatment.

New records obtained by The Associated Press underscore how few child-on-child sex assault reports pursued by military investigators are prosecuted. That problem is most serious on U.S. installations overseas, where at least 47,000 children are enrolled in Pentagon-run schools.

Children and teens suspected of sex crimes on U.S. bases overseas often faced no legal consequences, such as court-ordered rehabilitation, records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show. Those held to account were generally either kicked off base into the civilian world or received modest punishments, the records

See BASES, Page 7

# Lion kills worker after escaping locked area

BURLINGTON, N.C. (AP) — A lion killed a young worker at a wildlife center Sunday after it got loose from a locked space, the center said.

Alexandra Black, 22, of New Palestine, Indiana, was killed Sunday after being attacked by the lion in an enclosure that was being cleaned at the Conservators Center, news outlets reported, citing a state-

ment from the Caswell County Sheriff's Office.

The lion was shot and killed after attempts to tranquilize the animal failed, deputies said.

A "husbandry team" led by a professionally trained animal keeper was carrying out the routine cleaning when the lion somehow got loose, the center said in a statement.

It wasn't clear how the

lion escaped the area that was supposed to be locked, said the center, which is closed until further notice.

"This is the worst day of my life. We've lost a person. We've lost an animal. We have lost the faith in ourselves a little today," said Mindy Stinner, the executive director of the Conservators Center, according to WTVD-TV.

Black graduated from Indiana University in May with a degree in animal behavior, according to her LinkedIn page. She had been working at the center for about two weeks, her family said.

"She was a beautiful young woman who had just started her career, there was a terrible

See LION, Page 7

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# BASES

Continued from page 6

show. One, for example, was told to write a 1,000-word essay about "the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touching." Another avoided punishment by enlisting in the Army. A third, who was put on curfew after two girls accused him of sexual assault, was investigated a year later in an alleged rape, a case that also went unprosecuted.

Congress ordered internal investigations and mandated Pentagon reforms this summer after an Associated Press investigation revealed the problems of juvenile sexual assault on U.S. military bases, including the failure of the Defense and Justice Departments to help either victims or offenders.

One proposed reform would have required federal prosecutors with jurisdiction over civilians on base to transfer child-on-child sex assault cases to counterparts in state juvenile justice systems, which have resources dedicated to rehabilitation. But that requirement did not survive final negotiations over the legislation.

Federal prosecutors, under pressure to win big convictions, don't take juvenile sex assault cases because they can be hard to prove and require extra paperwork, former prosecutors say. Military officials privately bemoan what they see as the Justice Department's indifference while publicly noting their own limitations.

"We could bar that kid from being on post, or we could move the family from the post, but beyond that, the authorities really reside outside the military," Army Secretary Mark Esper told senators at a May hearing.

Representatives of the Defense and Justice Departments have been meeting for several months to resolve problems that AP's investigation highlighted.

Officials are "considering a range of options to ensure that these types of cases are effectively addressed," Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle told the AP. The idea is to use state courts when possible, he added.

That would not apply to U.S. installations in Europe and Asia, where U.S. officials can be reluctant to involve prosecutors from host nations.

AP's review of investigative reports in which military officials documented prosecution decisions found that about one in 10 on overseas Army, Navy or Marines bases were accepted from 2007 into 2017.

Weak cases don't explain the lack of prosecutions. Army criminal investigators concluded that nearly 90 percent of juvenile sex crime allegations on bases were credible, records show. Naval Criminal Investigative Service agents do not routinely record whether they believe allegations, but on the Navy and Marines bases where NCIS works, AP identified two dozen unprosecuted cases in which an alleged attacker confessed.

The Justice Department refused to share data on the prosecution of juveniles for sex crimes committed overseas. The department added that its lawyers decline to prosecute cases for many reasons, including strength of evidence, age of the suspect and severity of the alleged crime.

Congress acted in response to AP stories that identified nearly 700 cases of child-on-child sexual assault or rape on American military installations worldwide over a decade. Military investigators buried some cases, AP found, while many of those they investigated fell into the legal and bureaucratic netherworld.

Military lawyers cannot prosecute the civilian children of service members and contractors. Given the infrequency of federal prosecution, kids suspected of sexually assaulting other kids rarely get the kind of court-supported rehabilitation that research shows will prevent most young offenders from committing another sex crime.

Lawmakers directed the Pentagon's inspector general and the Government Accountability Office to investigate. They also ordered the Department of Defense Education

Activity, which oversees the Pentagon's network of schools in seven U.S. states and 11 other countries, to create new policies to track and respond to reports of child-on-child sexual assault. Legal protections that students in U.S. public schools enjoy were extended to the military-run schools as well.

The AP's investigation also found that the military's Family Advocacy Program has denied services to sex-assault victims because their alleged attacker was not an adult. Spokeswoman Lt. Col. Carla Gleason said Pentagon experts are now "working on identifying gaps in our family advocacy processes and programs concerning problematic juvenile sexual behavior." Congress appropriated \$10 million for family advocacy services over the next year.

In contrast, efforts to pressure the Justice Department to change the way it handles juvenile sex assault prosecutions have floundered.

When Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., asked the Justice Department's inspector general to review why federal prosecutors rarely take such cases, Inspector General Michael Horowitz responded that any action would be premature, pending the outcome of the ongoing discussions between the Justice and Defense Departments.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the chamber's No. 2 Republican, had proposed requiring federal authorities to share legal jurisdiction over juvenile crimes with states. That proposal was watered down in negotiations with the House of Representatives, and the final bill that President Donald Trump signed in August contained language merely urging that such authority be shared.

Cornyn said in a statement he would "keep fighting to allow local prosecutors to pursue these cases so our most vulnerable and their families can get the justice they deserve." Spokeswoman Ryann DuRant said the senator will introduce similar legislation in 2019.

One of the rare cases in which federal prosecutors filed sexual assault charges against military kids involved a 10-year-old who was accused of abusing five younger boys at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.

The abuser was first reported in August 2010. Records show investigators didn't pursue a criminal case until a second report four months later. The boy was sentenced to probation and ordered to get treatment.

"He needed to go somewhere to be rehabilitated," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann DeMarais said during a court hearing this summer, after the boy landed in custody for a probation violation. "We know he can succeed and do really well in a controlled environment."

# WAGE

Continued from Page 6

on experienced workers, making it more challenging for entry-level employees to find jobs.

Seattle, the fastest-growing large city in the U.S., has been at the forefront of the movement for higher minimum wages. A local ordinance raised the minimum wage to as much as \$11 an hour in 2015, then as much as \$13 in 2016, depending on the size of the employer and whether it provided health insurance.

A series of studies by the University of Washington has produced evolving conclusions.

In May, the researchers determined that Seattle's initial increase to \$11 an hour had an insignificant effect on employment but that the hike to \$13 an hour resulted in "a large drop in employment." They said the higher minimum wage led to a 6.9 percent decline in the hours worked for those earning under \$19 an hour, resulting in a net reduction in paychecks.

In October, however, those same researchers reached a contrasting conclusion. They said Seattle workers employed at low wages experienced a modest reduction in hours worked after the minimum wage increased, but nonetheless saw a net increase in average pretax earnings of \$10 a week. That gain generally went to those who already had been working more hours while those who had been working less saw no significant change in their overall earnings.

Both supporters and opponents of higher minimum wages have pointed to the Seattle studies.

The federal minimum wage was last raised in 2009. Since then, 29 states, the District of Columbia and dozens of other cities and counties have set minimum wages above the federal floor. Some have repeatedly raised their rates.

"The federal minimum wage has really become irrelevant," said Michael Saltsman, managing director of the Employment Policies Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based group that receives funding from businesses and opposes minimum wage increases.

The new state minimum wage laws could affect about 5.3 million workers who are currently earning less than the new standards, according to the liberal-leaning Economic Policy Institute, based in Washington, D.C. That equates to almost 8 percent of the workforce in those 20 states but doesn't account for additional minimum wage increases in some cities.

# LION

Continued from Page 6

accident, and we are mourning," Black's family said in a statement, according to news outlets. "But, she died following her passion."

The center said the lion was fatally shot to allow county personnel to retrieve Black.

The facility was founded in 1999 and is in Burlington, about 50

miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Raleigh.

On its website, the center said it began giving public tours in 2007 and gets more than 16,000 visitors annually. It has more than a dozen employees and currently houses more than 80 animals and more than 21 species.

The center says it took in 14 lions and tigers in 2004 to assist the U.S. Department of Agriculture with caring for animals that were living in "unacceptable conditions."

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# 'Aquaman' still rules, and others see a post-Christmas bump



AP photo

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Jason Momoa, left, and Amber Heard in a scene from "Aquaman."

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In the final weekend of 2018, "Aquaman" still led the pack at the box office, but other films like "Mary Poppins Returns," "The Mule" and "Second Act" enjoyed post-holiday bumps too, even amid an onslaught of new Christmas offerings like "Vice," "Holmes and Watson," "On the Basis of Sex" and the Netflix phenomenon "Bird Box."

Warner Bros. said Sunday that "Aquaman" added an estimated \$51.6 million in North American ticket sales over the weekend to take first place again. Down just 24 percent from its domestic debut, the DC Comics pic, which has been No. 1 internationally for four weeks, has now grossed nearly \$748.8 million worldwide.

Although other films in theaters were left in "Aquaman's" wake, more than a few in the top 10 experienced an uncommon uptick in returns this weekend. Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns" ended the weekend up an estimated 19 percent, in second place, with \$28 million, while "Bumblebee," down only five percent, settled in third with \$20.5 million.

Up 11 percent, "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" got fourth with \$18.3 million, and "The Mule," up 24 percent, took fifth with \$11.8 million.

The Jennifer Lopez-led "Second Act," which got off to a slow start last weekend, also found itself up 11 percent, with \$7.2 million in seventh place. But the biggest bump of all came for Disney's "Ralph Breaks the Internet," which was up nearly 40 percent in its sixth weekend in theaters, with \$6.5 million.

"There is a bit of a lull on the weekend leading into Christmas. People are busy and distracted," said Comscore's senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "But the weekend after, most of these films in the top 10 got a bounce."

This so-called "catch-up" weekend made it a little difficult for the Christmas newcomers to make a huge impact, however, especially when the big wide-releases this time were either politically charged (the Dick Cheney movie "Vice") or poorly reviewed ("Holmes and Watson," which is in the single digits on Rotten Tomatoes and got a deathly D+ CinemaScore).

Annapurna's "Vice," starring Christian Bale as the former Vice President, came out on top for the new films, grossing \$7.8 million from the weekend and \$17.7 million since its Christmas opening. A leading contender at the Golden Globe Awards this coming Sunday, the film earned mixed reviews from critics and a C+ CinemaScore from audiences.

"That a movie with that subject matter can ride a wave to sixth place is really indicative of how interested people are in this movie," Dergarabedian said. "This is required viewing for anyone studying the awards season race."

Driven by the star-power of Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly, "Holmes

and Watson" managed to take in \$7.3 million despite the negative audience and critic reviews. The Sony film has grossed \$19.7 million since Christmas Day.

And in limited release, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg film "On the Basis of Sex" starring Felicity Jones grossed \$690,000 from 33 locations, for a total of \$1.5 million since its debut. The Laurel and Hardy film "Stan & Ollie," also with Reilly, opened on five screens to \$79,674, and "Destroyer," with Nicole Kidman, earned \$58,472 from three locations.

The box office year as a whole is barreling toward a record \$11.9 billion in returns, as time runs out on 2018, although final numbers won't be in from all the studios until mid-week.

"This is the perfect way to end a record box office year," Dergarabedian said. "This weekend represented everything that this year was about: Diversity, escapism and the movie-going experience in the theater, once again proving that the movie theater can take on all competition and come out a winner."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Aquaman," \$51.6 million (\$85.4 million international).

2. "Mary Poppins Returns," \$28 million (\$28.9 million international).

3. "Bumblebee," \$20.5 million (\$45.7 million international).

4. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," \$18.3 million (\$27.4 million international).

5. "The Mule," \$11.8 million.

See MOVIES, Page 9

# Franklin attorney: \$3 million in back taxes paid to IRS



AP photo

In this Nov. 7, 2017 file photo, Aretha Franklin attends the Elton John AIDS Foundation's 25th Anniversary Gala in New York. An attorney representing the estate of the late Queen of Soul says at least \$3 million in back taxes have been paid to the IRS since Franklin's death this summer in her Detroit apartment. David Bennett tells The Associated Press on Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018, that Franklin's estate is being audited by the IRS, which he says filed a claim this month in a county probate court north of Detroit.

By COREY WILLIAMS

Associated Press  
DETROIT (AP) — Aretha Franklin's estate has paid at least \$3 million in back taxes to the IRS since her death in August, an attorney for the late Queen of Soul's estate said Thursday.

The estate is being audited by the IRS, which filed a claim this month

in a county probate court north of Detroit, David Bennett told The Associated Press.

Earlier Thursday, TMZ reported that legal documents it obtained showed the IRS claimed the singer owes more than \$6.3 million in back taxes from 2012 to 2018 and \$1.5 million in penalties.

See FRANKLIN, Page 9





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# UK honors cave rescue divers, Twiggy, Monty Python's Palin



In this file photo dated Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007, former English model, actress and singer, Twiggy Lawson, commonly known as Twiggy, in London, England. Twiggy is among those being recognized in Britain's New Year's Honors List, according to the list of recipients released Friday Dec. 28, 2018.

By GREGORY KATZ

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British divers who rescued young soccer players trapped in a flooded cave in Thailand are among those being recognized in Britain's New Year's Honors List, along with 1960s model Twiggy and Monty Python star Michael Palin.

Twiggy, a model who shot to stardom during the Beatles era, will become a "dame" — the female equivalent of a knight — while Palin, whose second career has seen him become an acclaimed travel documentary maker, receives a knighthood.

Jim Carter, who played the acerbic Mr. Carson in "Downton Abbey," was also recognized, as was filmmaker Christopher Nolan, director of "Inception" and "Dunkirk," and best-selling author Philip Pullman, creator of the "Dark Materials" trilogy.

The list released Friday also named 43 people who respond-

ed quickly to the extremist attacks in Manchester and London in 2017.

The honors process starts with nominations from the public, which are winnowed down by committees and sent to the prime minister before the various honors are bestowed by Queen Elizabeth II or senior royals next year.

The 92-year-old monarch has increasingly called on her children and grandchildren to hand out the coveted awards.

Divers Joshua Bratchley, Lance Corporal Connor Roe and Vernon Unsworth will be made Members of the Order of the British Empire for their roles in the risky Thai cave rescue in June and July.

Four other British cave divers will receive civilian gallantry awards for their roles in the thrilling rescue of 12 boys and their coach, who were trapped in the cave for more than two weeks.

Richard Stanton and John Volanthen, the first to reach

the stranded children and their coach, have been awarded the George Medal, while Christopher Jewell and Jason Mallinson received the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

Twiggy, whose modeling career lasted for decades, burst on the London Mod scene as one of the original "It" girls. She earned worldwide fame by 17 and went on to a career in theater and films.

"It's wonderful, but it makes me giggle," said Twiggy, 69, whose real name is Lesley Lawson. "The hardest thing has been keeping it a secret."

Palin's knighthood recognizes his contribution to travel, culture and geography. He said the news had not sunk in yet but noted "I have been a knight before, in Python films. I have been several knights, including Sir Galahad."

"I don't think it will (sink in) until I see the envelopes addressing me as Sir Michael Palin," said the 75-year-old.

## MOVIES

Continued from Page 8

- 6. "Vice," \$7.8 million (\$875,160 international).
- 7. "Holmes and Watson," \$7.3 million (\$4 million international).
- 8. "Second Act," \$7.2 million (\$1.5

- million international).
- 9. "Ralph Breaks the Internet," \$6.5 million (\$13.7 million international).
- 10. "Dr. Seuss' The Grinch," \$4.2 million (\$17.5 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Cana-

- da), according to Comscore:
- 1. "Aquaman," \$85.4 million.
- 2. "Bumblebee," \$45.7 million.
- 3. "Mary Poppins Returns," \$28.9 million.
- 4. "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," \$27.4 million.
- 5. "Kill Mobile," \$20 million.
- 6. "Dr. Seuss' The Grinch," \$17.5 mil-

- lion.
- 7. "Bohemian Rhapsody," \$17.1 million.
- 8. "Mojin: The Worm Valley," \$16.7 million.
- 9. "Ralph Breaks the Internet," \$13.7 million.
- 10. "Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald," \$8.2 million.

## FRANKLIN

Continued from Page 8

"We have a tax attorney. All of her returns have been filed," Bennett told the AP. "We have disputes with the IRS regarding what they claim was income. We claim its double-dipping income because they don't understand how the business works."

He added that Franklin had a lot of expenses whenever she toured.

"She had to pay for transportation, hotel rooms, backup singers, musicians. When she did that the IRS was questioning the returns she filed," Bennett said. "We're going through audits. Returns were filed as timely as we could get them filed."

Franklin died of pancreatic cancer in August in her Detroit apartment. She was 76.

At the time of her death, Franklin owned a home

in Oakland County's Bloomfield Township. The IRS filed the claim this month in Oakland County Probate Court in Pontiac.

Documents filed in an Oakland County court after Franklin's death did not mention the value of her estate, which could run into the tens of millions.

Franklin left no will when she died. She was not married and left four sons: Clarence Franklin, Edward Franklin, Kecalp Franklin and Ted White Jr. Clarence, Aretha's eldest, is incapacitated and is represented by a guardian. And a niece of hers is the executor.

Franklin's estate also has paid money to the state of Michigan and other jurisdictions "where she would have had some income," Bennett said.

Franklin had been the target of a number of lawsuits by creditors during the late 1980s and 1990s.

In 2008, the singer said an attorney's mistake

caused her \$700,000 mansion in Detroit to slip into foreclosure over \$445 in 2005 taxes and late fees. The Detroit Free Press reported then that Franklin owed a total of \$19,192 in back taxes on the property through 2007.

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## ANNUAL MAMMOTH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ANSWERS**

In 2018, we said good-bye to stars such as Tom Petty, David Cassidy and Glen Campbell.

We celebrated anniversaries – the zipper turned 100, the Big Mac hit 50 and the iPhone turned 10, for example. A Pretty Woman marked her 50th; a Material Girl adopted twins; and, wildfires and hurricanes dominated the news. These are just a few of the events that provide inspiration for 152 year-in-review clues found in the Annual Mammoth Crossword

Puzzle by Monica Zurowski. Here are the answers for the

Annual Mammoth Crossword Puzzle.

**We hope you enjoyed the puzzle!**

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*Thanks For Playing!*

BIG SPRING  
**HERALD**

### Harden has Rockets rolling with visit to Warriors looming

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

James Harden and the Houston Rockets were one half away from the NBA Finals last time they played at Oracle Arena.

The way the Rockets are rolling now, they might just get another shot at the champs this postseason.

The Rockets try to wrap up a perfect month at home Monday against Memphis, then visit Golden State for the first time since the Western Conference finals, having recovered from a rough start thanks to Harden's torrid stretch.

He has scored 40 points in three straight games and 35 or more in seven straight, the longest streak since LeBron James did it in nine in a row in 2006. The NBA scoring leader's quest to repeat as MVP is clearly on track.

And after a poor start, so are the Rockets (20-15). They have won four straight and nine of their last 10 games overall, and are 8-0 at home in December after dropping their first four games after the Toyota Center.

Just like Game 6 of the West finals, when they blew a double-digit lead, they will play at Golden State for Thursday's nationally televised game without Chris Paul because of a hamstring injury. But instead of what had been a shaky season getting worse, the Rockets have surged in his absence because of Harden.

"Somebody said the other day that we can only win if he scores 40. OK, that's kind of a bad thing, but the good thing is he can score 40 every night, so we're OK with that," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"Tell him to keep going."

NEW YEAR, OLD HOME

Kawhi Leonard's first trip of the new year is to his old home.

The Toronto Raptors visit San Antonio on Thursday for what became one of the most anticipated games of



AP photo

Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) passes the ball around New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, in New Orleans.

this NBA season this summer when the Spurs gave Leonard the exit he had been seeking, trading him to the Raptors.

Leonard was the NBA Finals MVP when the Spurs won their last championship in 2014 and had become one of the league's most complete players by last season. But he was limited to nine games because of a quadriceps injury and his relationship with the organization became strained.

The Spurs dealt him along with mainstay Danny Green to Toronto, getting All-Star guard DeMar DeRozan back.

Leonard led Toronto to the best record in the league for most of the season and the two-time Defensive Player of the Year's absence has shown on the Spurs' defense, long one of the league's best but well back in the

rankings now.

While the game Thursday is the most newsworthy, it's not the most important of the week for Toronto. The Raptors follow it Saturday by visiting the Milwaukee Bucks, who have inched ahead of them for the NBA's best record and have won both meetings this season.

OTHER GAMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK:

Orlando at Charlotte, Monday. Magic coach Steve Clifford returns to face the team he coached for five seasons.

Oklahoma City at Lakers, Wednesday. Chance for Californians Russell Westbrook and Paul George to put on a show for the fans back home.

Atlanta at Milwaukee, Friday. Mike Budenholzer's move from Atlanta to Milwaukee couldn't look much better.

### Decision time for Murray: Football, baseball or both?



AP photo

Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray (1) looks to pass, during the second half of the Orange Bowl NCAA college football game against Alabama, Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Kyler Murray had it all working: pinpoint throws, speedy feet and unflappable resolve all the way to the finish.

If this was his football finale, it was a gem.

Murray threw for 308 yards and two touchdowns, rushed for an additional 109 and another touchdown, led Oklahoma to scores on its final six possessions — sans for a 25-second one to end the first half — and it still wasn't enough. The Heisman Trophy winner isn't going to play in the national championship game, after top-ranked Alabama downed fourth-ranked Oklahoma 45-34 in the Orange Bowl on Saturday night.

begin contemplating his career plan a week earlier than he hoped.

Baseball or football? A massive decision awaits.

"I haven't really thought about it right now," Murray said a half-hour after the game, still in his grass-stained uniform and with a big welt forming under his left eye. "Sorry about that."

The way the Sooners see it, it's a win-win decision for Murray.

"He's either going to be a Major League Baseball star or he's going to be a Pro Bowler," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "He just needs to decide which one."

Murray, who is from Allen, Texas, just outside Dallas, became the first player in nearly five years to throw for at least 300 yards and rush for at least 100 in a

bowl game — the most recent to do that was Tajh Boyd, also in the Orange Bowl, for Clemson in its win over Ohio State on Jan. 3, 2014. It was also the third time Murray pulled off that feat this season, more than any other player in major college football.

"He did a great job tonight," Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa said. "He did a tremendous job."

Murray's ability on the football field cannot be argued.

Nor can his ability on the baseball diamond — the Oakland Athletics made him the No. 9 pick in this year's draft, paying about \$4.6 million in bonus money for someone they could see in their outfield before too long.

See MURRAY, Page 17

### Houston fires football coach Applewhite after 2 seasons



AP photo

Houston head coach Major Applewhite watches as his team warms up before they play Army in the of Armed Forces Bowl NCAA college football game Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston fired coach Major Applewhite on Sunday after two seasons.

The school announced the move a little more than a week after the Cougars were trounced in a 70-14 loss to Army in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Houston (8-5) lost four of its last five games after starting 7-1 and earning a ranking in the AP Top 25 for one week in late October. On Dec. 22, the injury-plagued Cougars suffered their most-lopsided loss in their 27 bowl games, and their biggest loss overall since a 66-10 loss at UCLA during the 1997 regular season.

"After a thorough evaluation of our football program, it is my assessment our fu-

ture opportunities for success are better addressed by making this very difficult decision now," Houston athletic director Chris Pezman said in a statement.

Applewhite had been at Houston since January 2015 when he was hired as offensive coordinator under head coach Tom Herman. After Herman left to coach Texas in November 2016, Herman was promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach, where he served for two years.

In Applewhite's first season, Houston went 7-5, capped by a 33-27 loss to Fresno State in the Hawaii Bowl.

Applewhite was Houston's fifth coach in the past decade, following stints by Art Briles, Kevin Sumlin, Tony Levine and Herman.

Possible replacements

could include West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen, who served as Houston's offensive coordinator in 2008 and 2009.

"While the immediate future may be challenging, our future at UH is very bright," Pezman's statement said. "We've made many sizable improvements over the past five years, and I look forward to enhancing our future success through the hiring of our next head coach. At this time, we have already begun the search process for our next head coach and will not comment further until the search is concluded."

The move comes after Houston lost offensive coordinator Kendal Briles, who left the Cougars to take the same job at Florida State after the bowl loss.

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



### Mercury Delivers Surprise New Year's Communication

Mercury and Uranus form a lucky fire sign trine indicating surprise news from afar. This could involve personal correspondence, such as a reach-out from a distant friend or an invite from someone who runs in different circles. In the larger sense, it could be a communication bridge between cultures. Finally, an understanding seems possible!

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** It may seem as though you're not so much for a cause as you are against the opposition to that cause. Whatever you can do to keep the balance will be a fortunate move.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It's been said that 80 percent of success is just showing up. But what the saying leaves out is: When the showing up happens 100 percent of the time, the rewards of success grow exponentially.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're on Earth; your friend is on Jupiter. Standing on Earth is possible, whereas, for a carbon-based creature

with mass, standing on Jupiter is not. What reality can you bring to the situation to enable you to stand together a while?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You enjoy what you can do very well, and you can do very well what you enjoy. This cycle just keeps turning throughout your day, which will be most auspiciously focused.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You don't realize it, but if you stop and think about it -- really tally up the evidence -- you'll learn that you've been needlessly selling yourself short. You're enough just as you are. Take this statement with you into the new year.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll build on your accomplishments in the new year, even though, right now, you may be forgetting what they are. That's why you should list them and look at the list often -- a private ritual to boost your confidence.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** If you have the energy but not the time, rearrangement and reordering will help you. If you have the time but not the energy, rest and recuperation will help you. Both

time and energy? Count yourself among the fortunate!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're working on a victory. Maybe it started out as a victory for you, or for your group, but it's grown into something much bigger. If you succeed, then it will be a victory for humanity.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Get on track and stay there. Know what brings you joy and head into that area with the full fire of your spirit. Don't even bother with the rest today. Kick this year off to a memorable start.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your senses allow you to perceive this beautiful world, and you'll find they are heightened by first-time experiences. It will be very lucky to put yourself in a brand-new situation.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** A collection of interesting tidbits does not a story make. But you can, and will, turn it into one. You'll be your own publicist, arranging the facts in such a way as to build interest in all you have to offer.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Push into the new year with boldness and optimism, focusing on what you want and leaving no room for what you don't want, which will fall quite naturally and easily away.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 1).** The symbolic ritual of making a birthday wish will launch you into your next incarnation with

a solid sense of purpose. You're willing to do what it takes to make this wish happen, and you'll be flanked by loyal partners. Also this solar journey: an excellent financial opportunity, domestic beautification and winning teams. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 38, 32, 1 and 50.

**GIVE 2019 A LUCKY START:** Lucky foods are a tradition in many cultures for inviting fortune to favor the New Year. Where I live in the American South, it's considered good luck to eat black-eyed peas, collard greens and cornbread on the first day of the year, and extra good luck to throw ham into that mix. In Italy and Brazil, it's lentils. Greeks have a cake with a coin in it. In Spain and Portugal, it's 12 grapes. But beyond eating our way into good fortune, how can we endear ourselves to the fickle fates? Considering Mars passing into Aries, the most effective way of drawing the delights of destiny toward us will involve not so much chewing but action. This astral aspect of movement suggests that rituals that include kinesthetic engagement, preferably of the entire body, will be the most successful.

Try this prescription: Write down your New Year's resolutions. Then get a voice recorder, turn on some music and state all of your wishes and intentions for 2019 into the recorder, repeating them for the entire length of a song or two. (This works particularly well if the song doesn't already have lyrics so you can hear your own words better.) Then put your headphones on and go for walk, listening to your own mantra. This is the ritual that will set your destiny, quite literally, in motion.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Two American heroes were Capricorns born on the first day of the year: war hero Paul Revere and American flag maker Betsy Ross. Revere was born under the warrior moon of Aries and had Mercury, Jupiter and Uranus in adventurous Sagittarius. Ross was born when the moon was in Cancer, the sign of America and of patriotism.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis@gmail.com](mailto:HolidayMathis@gmail.com).

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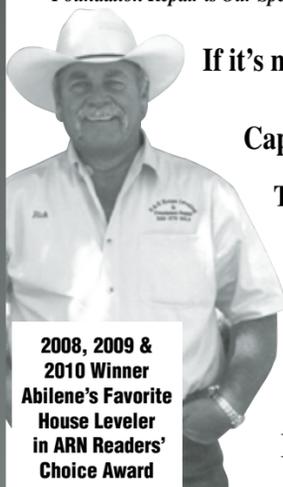
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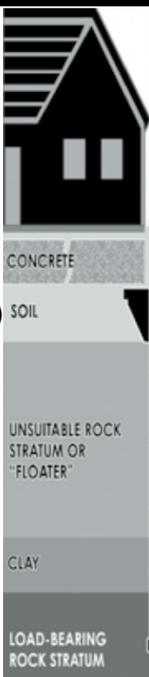
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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## The delicate art of defense

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ J 5 3  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ K 10 9 8 5  
♣ 10 4

**EAST**

♠ A 10 4  
♥ 5 2  
♦ A Q 7  
♣ Q J 9 8 7

**WEST**

♠ 9 7 6 2  
♥ J 10 9 8 3  
♦ 6 4 2  
♣ 3

**SOUTH**

♠ K Q 8  
♥ A Q 6  
♦ J 3  
♣ A K 6 5 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — jack of hearts.

There are players who spend so much time memorizing complicated bidding conventions, or trying to master squeezes and other advanced plays, that their ability to reason correctly — which counts more than anything else you can name — often gets lost in the shuffle.

Take this case where East, playing more by rote than reason, misdefended three notrump. Declarer took West's opening heart lead with the

queen, led the jack of diamonds and let it ride. East won with the queen and returned a heart, taken by South with the ace.

Declarer then led a diamond to dummy's eight, ducked by East, and a third diamond lead dislodged the ace. East shifted to a low spade, but declarer won and finished with 10 tricks, losing only a spade and two diamonds.

If East had taken the time early in the play to work out declarer's probable values for the jump to two notrump, he would have held South to just the eight tricks he was entitled to make.

To begin with, South had to have the K-Q of spades, A-Q of hearts and A-K of clubs for his two-notrump bid. This in turn meant that unless declarer had four spades, he could score only two spade tricks, three hearts and two clubs, and would therefore need to make two diamond tricks. East's defense consequently should have been aimed at limiting South to one diamond trick.

To accomplish this, all East had to do was to let South's jack of diamonds hold at trick two. That would have effectively killed dummy's remaining diamonds, and no matter how South continued, he could not have come to nine tricks.

Tomorrow: Three is not enough.

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### Annie's Mailbox

#### Loved One in Abusive Relationship

Dear Annie: I have a good friend who has been like a kid brother to me. He has always been a very thoughtful, caring, respectful man whom I've gotten along great with. This man has autism and borderline intellectual functioning, so I have always explained things so that he can better understand. I have had him over for a meal on several occasions; we enjoy playing board games, and I have taken him on a few day trips.

We care deeply for each other, not in a romantic way but like siblings. Enter his on-again, off-again girlfriend, who is physically, verbally and financially abusive. She has had him in tears, left marks on him and broken his glasses. She isolates him. She is an alcoholic whose behavior gets very bizarre, as well as dangerous, when she is drunk. I have tried to get him to think for himself regarding her, but I have also told him that he doesn't deserve to be hit or called nasty names or ridiculed. He has confided to me that he is very unhappy, sometimes calling me for help, but later has gotten upset with me. The girlfriend is constantly harassing him

over our friendship, so now he will not speak to me. I have called adult protective services; I don't know what else I can do. I am heartbroken that I have been cast off to the side. I thought I was his friend, his sister. The worst part is knowing that he is being abused and suffering in silence. I've tried to contact him, but he gets very upset over that. I feel as if I have lost my best friend, my brother, to a woman who treats him horribly. -- Missing My Brother in Wisconsin

Dear Missing: Calling adult protective services was the right thing to do, and you should continue to call to report incidents of abuse. I understand that you feel hurt, but it's important that you not take this personally. He has not cast you aside; he has become a victim of abuse. Be careful not to try to force his behavior, e.g., issuing an ultimatum that you can't continue being friends with him while he dates her. That would only leave him feeling more isolated. So as hard as it is to watch him be subjected to this abuse, try to stay in the picture. You can help him make a safe escape plan when he's ready. See the article "Supporting Someone Who Keeps Returning to an Abusive

Relationship" on the National Domestic Violence Hotline website (<https://www.thehotline.org>), or call the hotline (800-799-7233) for guidance.

Dear Annie: Your explanation of EMDR psychotherapy was excellent, but beyond EMDR is a new alternative known as Havening Techniques. Many therapists have found this to be an effective alternative in helping people heal their wounds from past emotional traumas. You can learn more at <https://www.havening.org>. -- Dr. Robert B. Nolan Jr.

Dear Dr. Robert: Thank you for the tip. Though I cannot vouch for the efficacy of Havening Techniques personally, I'd encourage readers to learn more and talk to their counselors if they feel it might be a good treatment modality for them.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## SUDOKU

			2				3	7
5								
8	2		5					
			3	7		1	2	
		4			9			8
					4		5	
7		5		6		3		
				4	3			
	6			1		8		

Level: Intermediate

#### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	6	3	9	1	5	8	7	2
8	2	9	7	4	3	6	1	5
7	1	5	8	6	2	3	4	9
2	7	6	1	8	4	9	5	3
1	3	4	5	2	9	7	6	8
5	9	8	3	7	6	1	2	4
3	8	2	6	5	7	4	9	1
9	5	7	4	3	1	2	8	6
6	4	1	2	9	8	5	3	7

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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:30 PM	Big 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Dollars	Focus	Mama's	American	Blended, Joel McHale (DVS)	Superman: Dawn of Justice	vs Ohio State.	ington vs Ohio State.	World Poker	Law & Order: SVU	Parents Speak	Street Out-laws
6:30 PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy					Stars In. Basket	Law & Order: SVU	Leah Remini	Street Out-laws
7:30 PM	Conners	Jesús	Lethal Weapon	NCIS (DVS)	(:05) La sultana (SS)	Ellen's Game	News	We'll Meet Again	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	(-45) Movie: Suicide Squad (DVS)			High School Football	WWE SmackDown!	Leah Remini	Street Out-laws
8:30 PM	blackish	Mi marido	The Gifted	FBI	Falsa identidad (SS)	This Is Us	Light of Southwest	Great Performances	G. Pyle WKRP	Penn & Teller	Big Bang		(-40) Allstate Sugar Bowl: Texas vs Georgia.	Studio	(7:50) Allstate Sugar Bowl: Texas vs Georgia.		Leah Remini	
9:30 PM	The Rookie	Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	NCIS: New Orleans	Señora Acero (SS)	New Amsterdam	Light of Southwest	Sym	Heroes	Page Six	Big Bang	(-02) Movie: Suicide Squad (DVS)				Miz & Mrs	Elizabeth Smart	Bad Chad Customs
10:30 PM	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	Gold	Big Bang				World Poker	Miz & Mrs	Elizabeth Smart	Street Out-laws
11:30 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	M:25	Being	Perry Mason	Seinfeld	New Girl	Preview	NCIS: New Orleans	College Football: TaxSlayer Gator Bowl		Miz & Mrs	Leah Remini	Street Out-laws
12:30 AM	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men	Access	Señora Acero (SS)	Daily	Think Red	On the	Great Performances	Hitchcock	New Girl	NCIS: New Orleans			High School Football	Chicago P.D.	Leah Remini	
1:30 AM	Paid Prg.	En tierras salvajes	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Sym	Mannix	Top 30	New Girl	NCIS: New Orleans				Chicago P.D.	Elizabeth Smart	Bad Chad Customs

### ANDY CAPP

HEY, FLO, I WON THE NEW YEAR'S RAFFLE IN THE PUB!

TURKEY, WINE, PUDDINGS, CHOCOLATES, CHAMPAGNE AND CHEESES. IT'LL BE THE BEST TIME EVER!

HAPPY NEW YEAR, PET!

### AGNES

TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN YEARS. THAT'S A LONG TIME.

YEP! EARTH HAS BEEN AROUND A WHILE!

WERE PEOPLE EVEN ALIVE BACK THEN?

SOMEONE HAD TO START COUNTING, SO I GUESS SO, YEAH.

WHO TAUGHT THEM TO COUNT?

PROBABLY THE PEOPLE SELLING CALENDARS.

### ARCHIE

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ARCHIE GANG!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

### ONE BIG HAPPY

WHAT YUMMY-LOOKING GRAPES!

YOU'RE WELCOME TO HAVE SOME, CYLENE!

I DON'T EAT GRAPES UNLESS SOMEONE PEELS THEM FOR ME.

NOW, ROSE, TAKE A DEEP BREATH. THERE'S STEAM EMANATING FROM YOUR EARS.

### MOMMA

MOMMA? I'M THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE FIRM'S NEW YEAR SALES MEETING TONIGHT!!

VERY NICE, THOMAS, BUT I HAVE A FEW THINGS FOR YOU TO KEEP IN MIND...

GOOD EVENING, STOCKHOLDERS! TONIGHT, THANKS TO MY MOTHER, I'M HERE BEFORE YOU STANDING UP STRAIGHT, ENUNCIATING CLEARLY, IN A CLEAN SHIRT, MAKING EYE CONTACT, SMILING WHEN IT'S APPROPRIATE, NOT SHUFFLING MY FEET AND REMEMBERING MY LINES. NOW, IF TIME PERMITS, I'D LIKE TO OUTLINE OUR 2017 SALES PLANS...

### NEST HEAD

FALLING ASLEEP WHILE WAITING FOR A BALL TO DROP SEEMS LIKE A STUPID WAY TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR.

MAYBE IT MAKES THE REST OF THE YEAR SEEM FUN BY COMPARISON.

### LEGAL RECREATIONAL POT SHOPS

opened in Colorado at 8 a.m. Mountain time.

Ten years ago: An Israeli warplane dropped a 2,000-pound bomb on the home of one of Hamas' top five decision-makers, instantly killing him and 18 others. The U.S. formally transferred control of the Green Zone to Iraqi authorities in a pair of ceremonies that also handed back Saddam Hussein's former palace. Russia made good on its threat to cut off all natural gas supplies to Ukraine. Six-term Rhode Island Sen. Claiborne Pell died at age 90. The Detroit Red Wings beat the Chicago Blackhawks 6-4 in the Winter Classic at chilly Wrigley Field. No. 5 Southern California defeated No. 6 Penn State 38-24 in the 95th Rose Bowl.

Five years ago: The nation's first legal recreational pot shops opened in Colorado at 8 a.m. Mountain Standard Time. Actress Juanita Moore, 99, died in Los Angeles. No. 4 Michigan State romped to a 24-20 victory over No. 5 Stanford in the 100th Rose Bowl. No. 15 Central Florida pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the bowl season by outlasting No. 6 Baylor 52-42 in the Fiesta Bowl.

One year ago: Former Fox News Channel anchor and 1989 Miss America Gretchen Carlson was named chairwoman of the Miss America Organization's board of directors, with three other past pageant winners joining her on the board. In the first Rose Bowl to go into overtime, Georgia advanced to college football's national championship game with a 54-48 win over Oklahoma. Alabama advanced by beating top-ranked Clemson, 24-6, in the Sugar Bowl. Peter Martins, the longtime leader of the New York City Ballet, announced his retirement in the midst of an investigation into accusations of sexual misconduct. California launched legal sales of recreational marijuana, with customers linking up early for ribbon cuttings and promotions.

### BIRTHDAYS

Former Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., is 97. Documentary maker Frederick Wiseman is 89. Actor Frank Langella is 81. Rock singer-musician Country Joe McDonald is 77. Writer-comedian Don Novello is 76. Actor Rick Hurst is 73. Country singer Steve Ripley (The Tractors) is 69. Sen. Robert Menendez,

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other."

Author unknown

## This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 1, the first day of 2019. There are 364 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 1, 1959, Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista, who fled to the Dominican Republic.

On this date:

In 1818, the first edition of the Gothic novel "Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus" by English author Mary Shelley, 20, was published anonymously in London.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that slaves in rebel states shall be "forever free."

In 1892, the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in New York formally opened.

In 1953, country singer Hank Williams Sr., 29, was discovered dead in the back seat of his car during a stop in Oak Hill, West Virginia, while he was being driven to a concert date in Canton, Ohio.

In 1954, NBC broadcast the first coast-to-coast color TV program as it presented live coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California.

In 1975, a jury in Washington found Nixon administration officials John N. Mitchell, H.R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and Robert C. Marlow guilty of charges related to the Watergate cover-up (Mardian's conviction for conspiracy was later overturned on appeal).

In 1979, the United States and China held celebrations in Washington and Beijing to mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In 1984, the breakup of AT&T took place as the telecommunications giant was divested of its 22 Bell System companies under terms of an antitrust agreement.

In 1985, the music cable channel VH-1 made its debut with a video of Marvin Gaye performing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

In 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into two new countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

In 2014, the nation's first

## Newsday Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Cake topping

6 Urge (on)

10 Brother of Cain

14 AM/FM device

15 "If all \_\_\_ fails..."

16 Not filleted, as fish

17 All thumbs

18 Domesticated

19 Office assistant

20 Full-year baseball admissions

23 What lumber is made of

24 Flag maker

27 Lighthouse's guiding light

31 Bar bill

33 Pollution monitoring org.

34 On the exterior

35 Barber shop sweepings

37 Raisin \_\_\_ (type of cereal)

38 One of the Big Apple's boroughs

41 Swindles

42 Swirling current

43 Find a new purpose for

44 Chimp or gorilla

45 Jack Horner's dessert

46 Did fine on a driver's test

47 Electric car company

49 Voicemail sound

51 Certain pain-reliever pills

58 Aid in wrongdoing

60 Feels unwell

**DOWN**

1 Part of the eye

2 Christmas candy shape

3 Creative spark

4 Puppy bites

5 Leave for the office

6 Brief quarrel

7 Tartan pattern

8 "Semper fi" org.

9 Offend the nose

10 Ease up

11 Rowdy

12 Come to a close

13 Strong drain cleaner

21 Persona \_\_\_ grata

22 Ease up

25 Thinly scattered

26 Tugged hard

27 Lynx cousin

28 Sweden's continent

29 In peak form

30 Corp. big shots

31 Very small

32 "\_\_\_ you okay?"

35 Jekyll's alter ego

36 "Furthermore..."

37 Tournament round exemptions

39 Hawaiian garland

40 "Finish what you're doing"

45 Settle a debt with

46 Vitality

48 Gate fastener

49 Model airplane material

50 Opinion piece

52 Corn servings

53 Barrel of laughs

54 Repetitive learning

55 Monogram ltr.

56 Pleasant

57 Lasting mark

58 Naval fleet leader: Abbr.

59 Life story, for short

Answer to previous puzzle

I	R	A	B	A	B	I	E	D	A	C	T	S
N	I	P	I	C	A	N	S	O	H	O		
A	S	P	N	E	S	T	L	E	E	R	S	
S	E	E	K	S	I	R		S	P	A	R	E
E	T	A	I	L	C	O	U	N	T	D	O	N
C	O	R	N	E	A		S	I	T	S		D
C	H	A	M	P	A	G	N	E	T	O	A	S
L	A	T	E		L	O	S	E	R	S		
E	D	T		O	N	E		N	A	T	H	A
F	I	R	E		W	O	R	K	S		L	E
D	A	T	E		R		M	A	C		R	I
T	E	C	H		U	N	A	B	L	E		R
H	A	T	E		S	C	R	E	E	N		D
U	S	S	R		H	O	T	R	O	D		O

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15				16					
17					18				19					
20					21				22					
				23					24		25	26		
27	28	29	30					31	32		33			
34							35	36			37			
38							39				40			
41							42				43			
44				45					46					
47				48				49	50					
				51			52	53			54	55	56	57
58	59						60				61			
62							63				64			
65							66				67			

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# Jaguars keeping Marrone, Caldwell despite AFC South flop

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Jacksonville Jaguars coach Doug Marrone and general manager Dave Caldwell will return next season.

The futures of quarterback Blake Bortles and running back Leonard Fournette are far less certain.

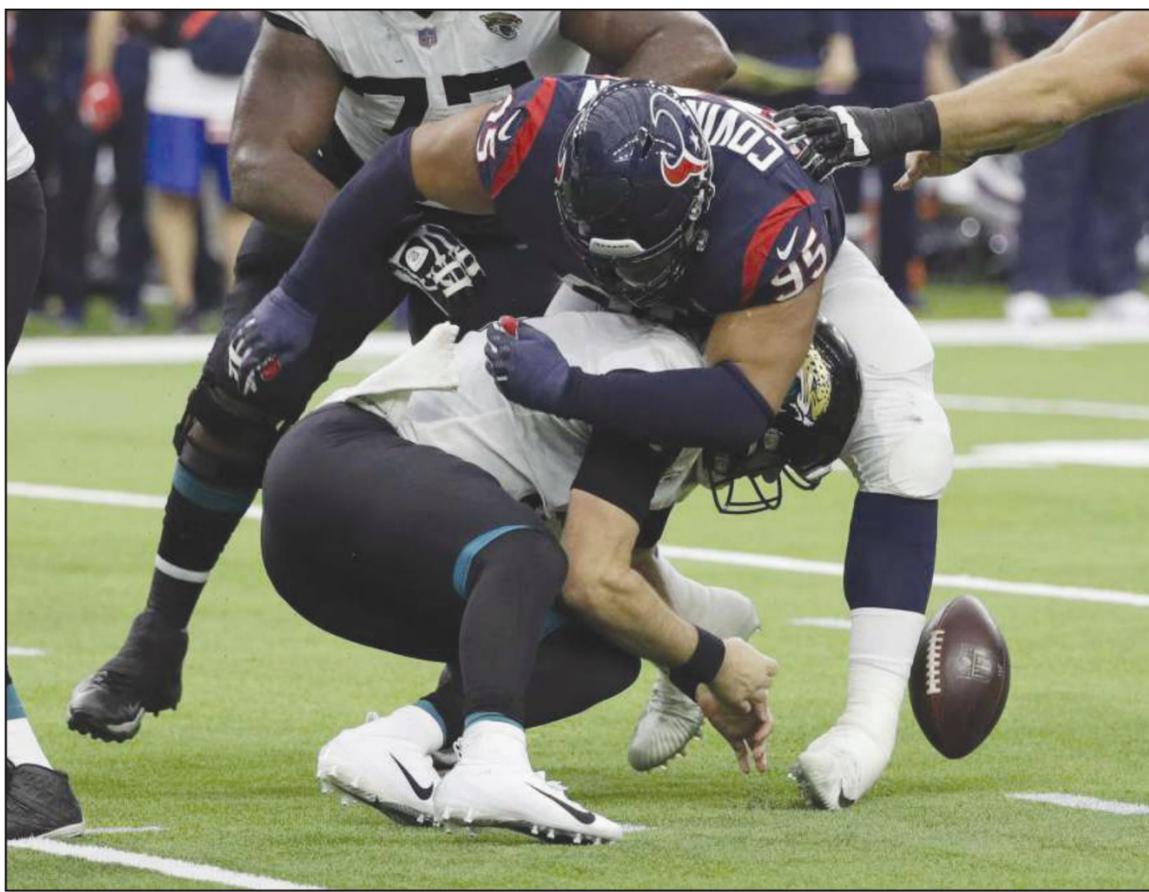
Team owner Shad Khan issued a statement after the season finale saying top executive Tom Coughlin has decided to retain Marrone and Caldwell, even though the team flopped to last place in the AFC South.

The Jaguars fell to 5-11 with Sunday's 20-3 loss to the Houston Texans, a year after finishing 10-6 and reaching the AFC championship game.

"We get judged on wins and losses," Marrone said. "Obviously, this year, I didn't do a good job. Period. I'm never going to step away from that. I'm happy with the faith because I do believe I will get this right."

Khan gave Coughlin, Marrone and Caldwell one-year contract extensions after Jacksonville faltered in the title game and seemingly viewed this season's slew of injuries — most of them on the offensive side of the ball — as a main culprit for the team's failure.

"I have the same trust in Tom, Dave and Doug as I did upon their introduction two years ago, and I do believe our best path forward for the moment is the one less disruptive and dramatic," Khan said. "Stability should not be confused with satisfac-



Houston Texans defensive end Christian Covington (95) hits Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles (5) causing a fumble during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Houston. Jacksonville recovered the ball.

AP photo

tion, however. I am far from content with the status quo and while it's best to put 2018 behind us, I will not overlook how poorly we accounted for ourselves following a 3-1 start.

"There were far too many long Sundays over the last three quarters of the season, with today's loss in Houston being the final example that cannot repeat itself in 2019," he continued. "That's my message to our football people and players, but also our sponsors and fans, both of whom were remarkable."

The Jaguars returned to Bortles as the starter after benching the quar-

terback following a loss to Buffalo on Nov. 25. But he did little to get Jacksonville's offense going. He was 15 of 28 for 107 yards as the Jaguars managed only six first downs.

Bortles compiled a 24-49 record as a starter in five seasons. The third overall pick in the 2014 draft is due to count \$21 million against the salary cap, and the Jags can save \$9.5 million by cutting him with a post-June 1 designation.

Bortles was asked if he thought Sunday's game would be his last for Jacksonville.

"I don't know," he said. "If I did ... I

hope I'll get an opportunity to come play again, but if not, I'll figure it out and go play somewhere else. We'll see what happens. I've got to wait until they let me know."

When asked how he wants to be remembered for his time in Jacksonville, he said: "Hopefully, not by this game."

Marrone said his team's offensive struggles went far beyond Bortles.

"My confidence level is not about Blake Bortles. It's about what we have to do offensively," Marrone said. "Right now, that confidence is low, judging by the numbers. I'd be a fool to say I have confidence in anything, from an offensive standpoint."

The Jaguars also could be done with Fournette, the fourth overall pick in the 2017 draft who missed eight games because of injuries and a suspension.

Fournette, who was inactive because of foot and ankle injuries, was

caught by TV cameras sitting on the bench during the game and chatting with running back T.J. Yeldon while the offense had the ball. They were clearly disengaged with teammates and coaches.

Coughlin had strong words for both of them afterward.

"I am disappointed in the behavior today from T.J. Yeldon and Leonard Fournette," Coughlin said in a statement. "They were disrespectful, selfish and their behavior was unbecoming that of a professional football player."

## MURRAY

Continued from page 11

As was the case for Baker Mayfield last season, the Heisman couldn't help deliver a win in the CFP semifinals for Murray. He and the Sooners were playing uphill all night, after giving up an Orange Bowl-record 21 points in the first quarter and eventually trailing 28-0 before finally getting on the board.

"Can't even look at the scoreboard at that point," Murray said. "You've just got to go out there and fight. That's what we did."

When they figured out what worked, it was simply too late.

The Sooners (12-2) got to 31-20 and 38-27 in the fourth quarter, but the quest for a miracle comeback essentially ended there. Murray said he didn't give thought coming into this CFP semifinal at the Orange Bowl that it could be his final football game. If he had his way, of course, he'd be heading to Santa Clara, California, in a few days

to meet second-ranked Clemson for the national championship.

Take away the brutal start, and he might have gotten there.

"Didn't get the job done," Murray said afterward.

Murray was dazzling all the way to the end, even after getting knocked out of the game briefly in the fourth quarter following a crushing tackle by Alabama's Quinnen Williams. He engineered touchdowns on his final three drives of the season, running the last one in himself.

Now he needs to decide if that was the last trip to the end zone he'll ever make.

"The mission was to win a national championship," Murray said. "But yeah, I wouldn't trade anything that happened for anything. Most fun I've had playing football in I-don't-know how long."

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<b>Pillowtop or Extra Firm</b>	TWIN SET ..... <b>\$447</b>
	FULL SET ..... <b>\$497</b>
	QUEEN SET ..... <b>\$547</b>
	KING SET ..... <b>\$747</b>
<b>Extra Plush Pillowtop</b>	TWIN SET ..... <b>\$497</b>
	FULL SET ..... <b>\$647</b>
	QUEEN SET ..... <b>\$697</b>
	KING SET ..... <b>\$897</b>
<b>Plush</b>	TWIN SET ..... <b>\$177</b>
	FULL SET ..... <b>\$247</b>
	QUEEN SET ..... <b>\$277</b>
<b>Pillowtop</b>	TWIN SET ..... <b>\$247</b>
	FULL SET ..... <b>\$297</b>
	QUEEN SET ..... <b>\$347</b>
	KING SET ..... <b>\$497</b>
<b>Memory Foam</b>	QUEEN SET Starting at ..... <b>\$447</b>
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## Browns to interview Williams, Kitchens for coaching vacancy



AP photo

Cleveland Browns head coach Gregg Williams walks on the sideline in the second half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Baltimore.

By **TOM WITHERS**

AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio — Browns interim coach Gregg Williams will be the first candidate interviewed for Cleveland's permanent position.

Williams led Cleveland to a 5-3 record after Hue Jackson was fired on Oct. 29. Browns general manager John Dorsey said Williams, the team's defensive coordinator for the past two seasons, will have his interview Tuesday.

Dorsey also said offensive coordinator Freddie Kitchens will be interviewed. Kitchens has developed

a strong rapport with quarterback Baker Mayfield, who went 6-7 as a starter and set the league rookie record with 27 touchdown passes.

Dorsey did not reveal the names of any other candidates during his news conference, and sidestepped a question about whether he would meet with former Packers coach Mike McCarthy.

Unlike previous years, the Browns don't have to sell their coaching vacancy. Cleveland went 7-8-1 this season after going winless in 2017. Dorsey believes the Browns' job is appealing because it's a young team with future assets.

## Dolphins fire coach Adam Gase after 3 seasons

By **STEVEN WINE**

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Adam Gase has been fired after three seasons as the Miami Dolphins coach, including a 7-9 finish this year.

Gase confirmed his dismissal in a text message Monday to The Associated Press.

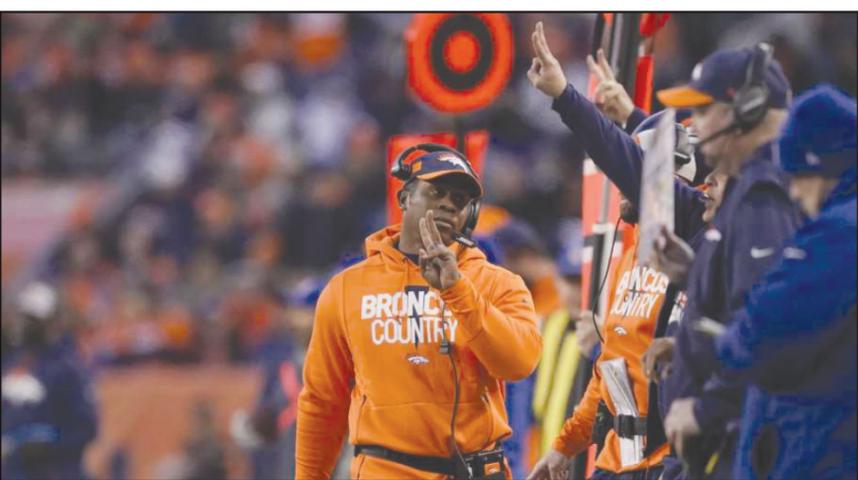
Owner Stephen Ross made the move after Gase went 23-26 with the Dolphins. A 42-17 loss Sunday at Buffalo sealed his fate.

Last week Gase said his biggest regret about 2018 was a slew of injuries. The Dolphins lost 13 key players to season-ending injuries, including two top offensive

linemen, their best run stopper, top cornerback Xavien Howard and dynamic receivers Albert Wilson and Jakeem Grant. Quarterback Ryan Tannehill missed five games.

The Dolphins will miss the playoffs for the 15th time in the past 17 seasons.

## Broncos fire Vance Joseph after 11-21 mark over 2 years



AP photo

Denver Broncos head coach Vance Joseph, center, reacts on the sideline during the second half of an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Chargers, Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018, in Denver.

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**

AP Pro Football Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Vance Joseph was fired as coach of the Denver Broncos on Monday after back-to-back double-digit losing seasons.

Joseph met with general manager John Elway after completing a 6-10 season and was dismissed with two years and about \$6 million left on his contract.

"I spoke with Vance this morning and thanked him for all of his hard work as our head coach. Although we decided to make this change, I believe Vance is a good football coach who has a bright future in this league," Elway said in a statement ahead of his news conference scheduled for later Monday.

"Vance made a lot of strides and deserves credit for how hard and competitively the team played this season. There's always going to be a high standard here — the bottom line is we need to win more football games. We're excited about the foundation that's being built and look forward to putting in the work to get the Broncos back on the winning track."

Despite that foundation, the Broncos' job isn't what it was just two years ago when Joseph replaced Gary Kubiak, who stepped down a year after leading Denver to the Super Bowl 50 championship.

The Broncos are now mired in a three-year playoff drought. There's a family feud as the Bowlens publicly

haggle over the future of the franchise. Joseph never was fully empowered to run the football team as Elway dictated many of the assistants that were hired. And the team hasn't had a title sponsor on its stadium for several seasons.

Joseph acknowledged after the Broncos' 23-9 loss to the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday in which there were more than 12,000 no-shows at Mile High Stadium that an 11-21 record wasn't good enough by Broncos standards.

Still, he said, "I think we've put a lot of work in. There's a foundation that's been laid here that should pay off in the future." Joseph said he wanted to "come back and make this thing right."

Several players, including star Von Miller, said they wanted Joseph to return for a third season. Instead, Elway decided to embark on a search for his fourth head coach in six seasons.

Team president and CEO Joe Ellis also thanked Joseph and said the team was headed in the right direction.

"While we've made progress, we still have a lot more work to do and need to get better in all areas," Ellis said in his statement. "In talking with John, I believe we're headed in the right direction and am confident in him leading our coaching search. John has my full support in making whatever changes are necessary to improve our team."

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